Import of power equipment by CEA

*170. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority has drawn up a blueprint for huge imports of power equipment;

(b) if so, what are the details of the power equipment which CEA propose to import;

(c) whether the indigenous power equipment industries have been consulted before importing such huge equipment; and

(d) if so, what further action is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) The Central Electricity Authority has assessed the requirement of the power sector during the Seventh and Eighth Plan periods for meeting the demand for power. While primary reliance will continue to be placed on indigenous sources for procurement of power equipment, external assistance for some power projects may have to be availed in view of the overall constraint of resources. External assistance is resorted to on a case by case basis keeping in view the national interest & fund constraints. CEA has not quantified the equipment to be imported.

Cases before MRTP Commission regarding equity linked debentures

*171. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases are pending before the MRTP Commission in respect of equity linked debentures after being cleared by the concerned Ministry;

(b) if so, what are the detailes thereof; and

(c) what is the number and details of cases launched on the basis of complaints received from a consumer group of Ahmedabad?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) Fifty one cases involving issue of equity linked debentures are, at present, pending before the M.R.T.P. Commission. Thirty-two of these cases arose out of complaints made by the Consumer Education and Research Centre, Ahmedabad. Details regarding all the 51 cases are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 54].

Industrial development of Chandrapur

*172. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for the industrial development of Chandrapur in Maharashtra and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what are the name of the institutions and agencies which have given offers in the development of Chandrapur; and

(c) what amount Government propose to incur thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) Industrialisation of a particular district/area in a State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, in order to develop the backward areas, the Central Government supplements their efforts by providing various incentives/concessions to encourage entrepreneurs for setting up industrial units in backward areas. Chandrapur district in Maharashtra has been identified as Category 'B' district and entrepreneurs setting up industrial units in this district are eligible for 15 per cent Central Subsidy subject to a maximum of Rs. 15 lakhs (Rs. 20 lakhs in the case of Nucleus Plants) on fixed capital investments.

Under the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme, funds are not ear-marked on States|districts basis; reimbursement are made on the first-cum-first serve basis.

Agencies like (i) Maharashtra industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) (ii) Regional Development Corporation (RDC), and (iii) State Industrial and Investment Corporation of Maharashtra (SICOM) have been set up by Government of Maharashtra for promoting balanced industrial growth.

Legal status to Lok Adalats

*173. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage and set up more Lok Adalats in the country for cheaper and speedier justice;

(b) if so, what will be the legal status of the Lok Adalats and their judgements; and

(c) what are the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Lok Adalat is one of the strategic legal aid programmes adopted by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes. They are voluntary agencies, and are overseen and monitored by the respective State Legal Aid and Advice Boards. They are becoming more and more popular with the rural poor as it provides them with speedier and inexpensive justice at their door-steps.

(b) and (c) Lok Adalats are institutions of mutual acceptance by the parties and decisions are based upon consent. Such decisions are accepted by Courts as the outcome of compromise and then become enforceable. A proposal to provide statutory status to the Lok Adalats is under consideration of the Government.

Policy for the Paints Industry

*174. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for the Paints Industry;

(b) if so, what are the details of its licensing policy towards the manufacture of industrial paints, protective coatings and corrosion inhibitors; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for their indigenisation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The applications for industrial licences for paints and coatings are considered on merits within the framework of the industrial policy of the Government. Certain items of paints and coatings are reserved for exclusive production in the small scale sector.

In order to promote indigenisation, Government are encouraging foreign collaboration to up-grade the technology particularly with regard to marine protective coatings and corrosion inhibitors where indigenous technology is not enough. Encouragement is also given to indigenous units to instal high speed grinding equipments etc., to match their products with international standards.

HMT watch centres

*175. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many HMT service centres for watches are presently functioning in each State;

(b) how many watches did each centre repair during the last three years, yearwise; and